

10. (Amended) The production method according to claim 8,  
wherein, in the general formula 1 or 2,  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  is a univalent or bivalent organic group.

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11. (Amended) The production method according to claim 9,  
wherein, in the general formula 2,  $R^2$  is an aromatic group.

12. (Amended) The production method according to claim 8,  
wherein, in the general formula 1,  $M^+$  is a potassium ion.

13. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,  
wherein the oxy anion compound comprises at least one salt selected from the group  
consisting of alkoxide salts, phenoxide salts and carboxylate salts, and the counter ion thereto is an  
alkali metal ion or a quaternary ammonium ion.

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16. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,  
wherein the vinyl polymer (I) is produced by atom transfer radical polymerization.

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19. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,  
wherein a main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a (meth) acrylic polymer.

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21. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,

wherein the main chain of the vinyl polymer (I) is a styrenic polymer.

AS 22. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,

wherein a ratio ( $M_w/M_n$ ) between weight average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) and number average molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) of the vinyl polymer (I) is less than 1.8 as determined by gel permeation chromatography.

23. (Amended) The production method according to claim 1,

wherein the number average molecular weight of the vinyl polymer (I) is within the range of 500 to 100,000.

24. (Amended) A vinyl polymer

which is producible by the production method according to claim 1.

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